

STIMULUS WATCH: WEEK 21

NIH Spends Millions in Stimulus Funds on Questionable Foreign Studies: Will Dragon Boat Racing Create Jobs?

- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) received \$8.2 billion in stimulus funds. Recent reports suggest that the NIH is using a substantial portion of this money for questionable studies in foreign countries. Specifically, the NIH is conducting a \$65,472 study on the relationship between HIV and sex in St. Petersburg, Russia; a \$700,000 study on how taxes, trade and politics affect tobacco sales in Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and other nations in Southeast Asia; and a \$73,000 study on whether the Asian tradition of dragon boat racing will enhance the lives of cancer survivors.
- In response to these questionable studies, Representative Greg Walden (R-OR) sent a letter to NIH Director Francis Collins seeking information on the screening procedures and review criteria used to approve such funding. Rep. Walden highlighted the NIH's reckless spending of taxpayer stimulus money saying, "[S]pending \$73,000 to study the impact of dragon boat racing on cancer survivors, I'm not sure how that gets us to the cure."
- Under the House Republican Stimulus Alternative, taxpayer funds would not be used to study foreign sex habits, foreign tobacco sales, or dragon boat racing. Instead, Republicans would have created twice as many jobs at half the cost. To learn how visit: <http://republicanwhip.house.gov/Jobs/>
- **Source:** <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2009/09/25/tracking-taxes-nih-spending-millions-wasteful-studies/>
<http://grants.nih.gov/recovery/>

The Washington Watch Report is available on the House Republican Whip's website: <http://republicanwhip.house.gov/blog/wwindex.html>

It is updated weekly with new items of wasteful stimulus spending, a look at jobs created by the stimulus, and a video of Members discussing specific examples.